

Haehnle Sanctuary News



Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary

Owned By the Michigan Audubon Society

Preserving and Protecting our Natural World

Fall 2012



Hemorrhagic Disease Kills Haehnle Deer!

By Ron Hoffman



A deer presumed to have died from EHD at Haehnle on the bank of the Portage River.

A significant number of white-tailed deer have died from epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) at Haehnle and the surrounding area. As of September 19, 18 dead deer had been reported around Eagle Lake, 7 more along the Portage River in section 3 of Leoni Township (east of Wooster Rd.) and 26 along the Portage River in section 4 (west of Wooster Rd.). Probably many more have gone undetected.

The disease was first reported in Michigan in 1955 and several local die-offs have taken place since. This year is by far the largest die-off. EHD primarily affects members of the deer family and other ruminants (cud chewing). It can infect domestic animals such as sheep, goats, and cattle, but rarely causes disease in them. Outbreaks usually occurred in late summer and early fall. EHD is an acute, infectious viral disease transmitted by a biting fly or midge.

Deer develop symptoms about 7 days after being exposed. They lose their appetite and fear of man, develop a rapid pulse and breathing rate followed by a fever and finally become unconscious. Dead deer are often found around water which they enter in an attempt to alleviate their high body temperature. Hemorrhage and lack of oxygen in the blood causes a blue tongue, a common symptom. Death occurs 8 to 36 hours following the first symptoms. There is no known effective treatment for EHD.

The Haehnle Sanctuary has had an overpopulation of deer for several years. They have had a significant impact on vegetation, destroying rare plants such as orchids and other wildflowers and limiting re-growth of certain species of woody plants. However, no one wants to see large die-offs of wildlife. The total impact of EHD on deer at the sanctuary remains to be seen.

In Memory of Ruth Wing

By Ron Hoffman

Ruth S. Wing passed away May 20, 2012 at the age 101. She was preceded in death by her husband Harold Wing, son David Wing and grandsons Tobin Childs and Kevin Wing. Ruth is survived by three daughters: Judith Pierson, Suzanne Macfarlane and Jeanette Childs. Jeanette and husband, Gary, are members of Jackson Audubon and serve on the Haehnle Sanctuary Committee.

The name Wing has long been associated with Jackson Audubon, Michigan Audubon and especially the Phyllis Haehnle Sanctuary. It is commonly recognized that Harold played a pivotal role convincing Casper "Cap" Haehnle to donate 497 acres to Michigan Audubon; the beginning of the Haehnle Sanctuary. What is less known is the role Ruth played in those crucial discussions.



Harold always took Ruth to those meetings because "Cap" enjoyed the company of a "good looking" woman. Bob Whiting recalled that at the original meeting, Cap had a little brown snake that he picked up trying to scare Ruth, but she took it in her hands. Bob said "It took the wind right out of Cap's sails." Cap enjoyed sharing an alcoholic drink with visitors. Harold did not drink, but Ruth would accept a glass of wine from Cap. Undoubtedly, Cap's decision to trust Michigan Audubon with the Mud Lake marsh was, in part, due to the friendship he developed with Harold and Ruth. She was the last person living of the those instrumental in starting the Haehnle Sanctuary.

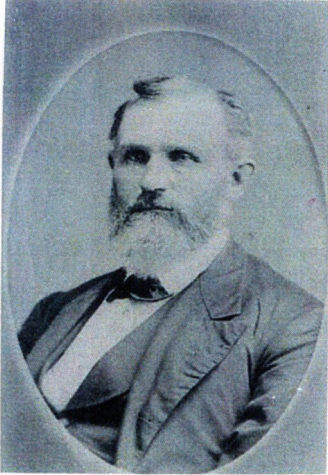


Harold Wing in Mud Lake Marsh 1955. Both Harold and Ruth are sorely missed by all. Their contributions will always be remembered.

Ruth's involvement with the sanctuary and Jackson Audubon continued for many years. She co-hosted JA potlucks at Grass Lake Methodist church, was a regular attendee at JA programs and on many occasions accompanied Harold when he counted cranes at the sanctuary, eventually from a motor home. Ruth lived to see Harold recognized for his contributions to the sanctuary, a bur oak planted in memory of son, David, and new kiosk built in memory of grandson, Tobin -- all at Haehnle. Her positive attitude and cheerful personality will be missed.

HISTORY OF FARMING IN AND AROUND HAEHNLE SANCTUARY

By Helena Robinovitz



David Willard Smith I

In 1894 David Willard Smith, his wife, Eliza, and four children came to Michigan from New York, and settled on 120 acres in Leoni Township. A 1894 plat map indicates that his son, George Washington Smith, owned 40 acres on the southwest corner of Smith and Walz Roads. In September, 1902, at age 37, George was fatally shot by a neighbor as he attempted to assist the local sheriff with an arrest. His wife, Rose, and 10 children were left behind. The eldest sons, Frank, 15, and David, 13, had to forego their education at the one-room Crippen School, located just west of their land, to work the farm. Frank and David remained in the area, each owning 120 acres on the north side of Smith Road.



George Washington Smith & wife Rose Adelle (Judy) Smith

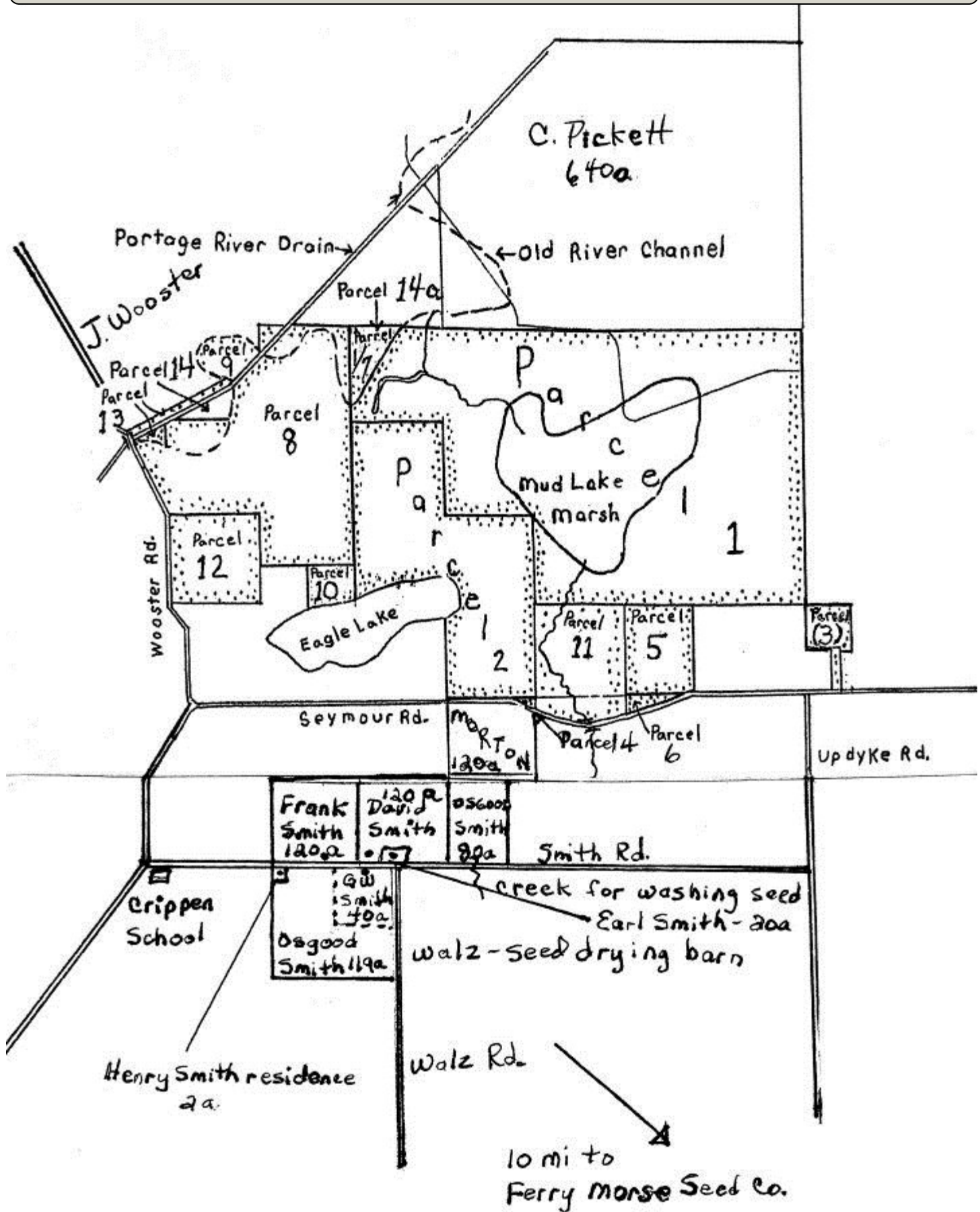
See picture below of wood being hauled with Frank's equipment on David's farm: Included in the picture from left to right are neighbor Wiley McDonald, neighbor Ezra Chatfield, Dennis Morton's maternal grandfather, and David Smith, Earl Smith's father. Brother Osgood Smith farmed 80 acres just west of David and later acquired an additional 119 acres at the southwest corner of Smith and Walz Roads, incorporating the original acreage of George Wash-



ington Smith. In 1992, Lila Harvey Smith and family purchased 92 of these acres from Osgood Smith, Jr. Younger brother, Henry Smith and family lived on a 2-acre parcel on the northwest corner of Osgood Smith's property on the south side of Smith Road. His wife, Lila Harvey Smith, grew up on the 320 acres of land at the corner of Wooster and Seymour Roads, owned by her father, George Harvey. Looking at the Haehnle parcels

on the map on the following page, this included the northwest section of Parcel 2, the northwest corner of Parcel 1, Parcels 14a, 8 and 12, and the remaining private land around Eagle Lake.

Haehnle Map Showing Donated and Purchased Parcels





Henry became a businessman and Lila and her sons ran the farm and sold produce from the big red barn that remains at the corner of the original property. Picture at left shows pumpkins growing on the Harvey-Smith land just east of Wooster Road on July 6, 1958. (The home of Cap Haehnle can be seen in the distance.) Henry and Lila's son George continues to farm some of the land owned by his father, Henry Smith, and Grandfather Harvey.

Beginning in the late 1800's George Harvey harvested marsh hay off land that is now Parcels 1, 2 and 8 of

Haehnle. Lila Harvey Smith remembered helping her father as a child with the balers. Horses wore bog shoes (see picture on right) to pull the wagons through the mucky marsh and rattlesnakes sometimes gathered in the hay mounds. Charlie Pickett, who is listed on a 1911 plat map as owning the 640 acres north of Haehnle's Parcel 1, was a broker for local farmers of this marsh hay. The hay was sold and used as a packaging agent, much like plastic bubble wrap and peanuts are used today.



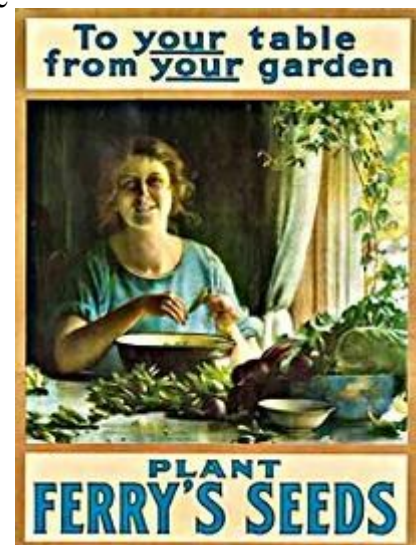
Charlie Pickett's sons, Edwin and Harold, operated a peppermint still on the Pickett

land, about 50 yards above the northeast corner of Haehnle. The peppermint was grown, harvested, then cooked and distilled for the oil in a metal building which still stands on the site. (See picture at left.) The left-over greens were discarded and neighbors recall the strong peppermint odor that lingered. This operation continued into the 1960's.



Another source of income for local farmers was the raising of seed for The Ferry Seed Company of Detroit. (In 1930, Ferry merged with the Morse Company and became the Ferry Morse Seed Company of today.)

The Harvey, Smith, and Walz families were among the local seed growers prior to World War I. In 1945 the Arthur Morton Family moved to 120 acres on Seymour Road (just across from the sanctuary), and joined in this venture. They raised corn, cucumbers, tomatoes, melons and pumpkins. The seeds were collected in the fields in burlap bags after the vegetables went through a 4ft. by 6ft. grinder which kept the seeds and expelled the rind. The seeds were then hauled in barrels by horse and wagon (and later by tractors) to be washed at the creek along the north side of Smith Road on Osgood Smith's farm. Here the seed was fed onto a 2 ft. x 8ft. wire trough. The bad seed would float off and the good seed would be dredged out.



Then the seed was transferred to a barn for drying on the Walz farm on the east side of Walz Road. It was then shipped to the seed company in Detroit where the seed was weighed and the farmers were paid by the pound. After World War II Ferry Morse Seed Company purchased land on the north side of Lee Road, between Burkhardt and Portage Roads, where the seed was washed and dried by the company. This raising of seed by the local farmers continued until 1960.

Cap Haehnle hunted from his cabin on the north side of Eagle Lake, but he also furnished the land of Parcel 8 to John Wooster who raised potatoes, carrots onions and cabbage. George Smith recalls that these crops were sold



to Campbell's Soup Company during the Depression and into the 1940's. Some vegetables were shipped at harvest and some were stored in the wooden barns and the tile barn located east of Wooster Road and just north of the Portage River. The wooden barns were insulated and were as serviceable as the tile barn, but were less expensive to build. See picture at left of the tile shed that remains in the original location just north of the river.

Earl Smith, his daughter, Illa Smith, George Smith, and Dennis Morton are descendants of these neighbors and have all contributed to this article, along

with Ron Hoffman, who was Chairman of the Haehnle Sanctuary Committee for many years and remains active on the Haehnle Sanctuary Committee.

Land Acquisition at Phyllis Haehnle Sanctuary – an Update

By Lathe Claflin, Sanctuary Chairman

In the last issue of the newsletter I outlined our goals and reasons for acquiring the last privately owned land projecting into the Sanctuary's Mud lake Marsh. This is the former Edward Klee property of 48 acres at the southwest corner of the sanctuary. Based on an independent land appraisal funded by the Legacy Land Conservancy, we made an offer to the current owners in May. They declined the offer because it was lower than their expectations. They have decided to test the market by selling it themselves without the benefit of a real estate agent. We are confident our offer is a good one and remain optimistic in reaching an agreement in time.

So far we have had excellent response to our capital campaign. As of August, we have commitments for \$155,000 of our \$200,000 goal: \$25,000 from

Michigan Audubon, \$40,000 from the General Fund and Sanctuary Fund of Jackson Audubon, \$5,000 from Washtenaw Audubon, \$500 each from Detroit and Capital Audubon, and \$34,000 from individual donors. We also have commitments for a \$40,000 matching grant from the Woollam Foundation, and a \$10,000 contribution from Consumers Energy Foundation. Two other foundation grants are pending. Matching funds from the Woollam Foundation will not be released until our \$200,000 goal has been achieved. ***So we still need your help.***

Please send your tax deductible gifts to:

Haehnle Land Acquisition Fund
Jackson Audubon Society
P.O. Box 6453
Jackson, MI 49204

Re-planting a Grassland

By Ron Hoffman



Tractor Pulls No-till Drill During Re-planting

Last summer a neighbor contracted with a local company to spray some of his land with a herbicide. Unfortunately, there was some confusion about the location resulting in about six acres of the sanctuary grassland east of Wooster Road being mistakenly sprayed: killing native grasses and wildflowers. Both the company and neighbor willingly agreed to re-plant the affected area at their expense. Late in June this year, four species of native grasses and 15 species of forbs were planted with a no-till drill.

Before planting, the area had to be sprayed again to kill invasive weeds that had spread into the area. Exceptionally dry weather during the summer retarded seed germination of many species, but rains in September stimulated some growth. Some seed was saved to broadcast early next spring in bare spots as a frost seeding: seed is buried as the ground freezes and thaws. It is expected to take a couple of years before the area is restored.

Water Levels at Haehnle Ideal for Cranes

Ron Hoffman, former Sanctuary Chairman has been monitoring the water levels at Haehnle over the summer. He has found that levels are just about what they were in 2010 when crane roosting numbers at the Sanctuary peaked at over 5,000 birds in late October and early November.

Barring an extremely wet autumn, crane watching at Haehnle should be at its best this year. Updated crane viewing maps will be available in the Kiosk at the observation hill this fall. A down-loadable pdf of the map will also be available on the Haehnle Sanctuary web site at www.haehnlesanctuary.org.



***We wish to thank the many people who have generously supported
The Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary in recent months.***

Unrestricted Donations

Lathe & Kathy Claflin

Melanie Hillard

Gerald and Sandra McCarroll

Patty and John Schmidt

Donations for Land Acquisition

3 Anonymous

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Hugh Zernickow

Bryon and Amy Ennis

Maria Maldonado

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Henry Van Dyke

Marion Spencer

Barbara Hirt

David and Paula Batch

In addition there several who donated directly to Michigan Audubon whose names we do not yet have.

In Memory of Ruth Wing

Stew and Helena Robinovitz

Ron and Joan Hoffman

Clarence and Betty Owens

Ann Scheele

Margaret McDonough

The Copper Nail Com. Resale Shop

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Gordon Food Service, David Gordon

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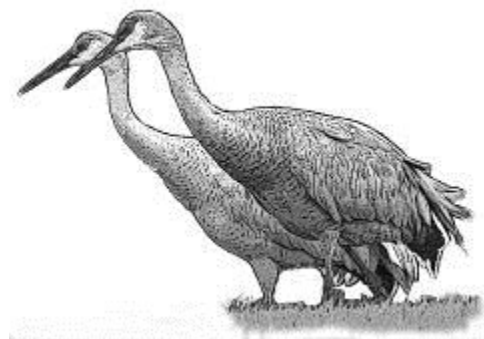
S. Lynne Borkowski

Gary and Nancy Siegrist

*Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary
c/o Jackson Audubon Society
P.O. Box 6453
Jackson, MI 49204*



*Official News Letter
For The Phyllis Haehnle
Memorial Sanctuary*



Work Bee Volunteers Needed

The Fall Work Bee will be held on Saturday, September 29 from 9:00 to around noon. Meet at the Wing Overlook which is just beyond the gate at the main parking lot off Seymour Road.

One of our primary goals is to remove trees between the observation hill and the marsh that are blocking the view. For that we will need several teams of volunteers with chain saws. Fallen trees need to be cut up and removed from the nature trails. Over hanging bushes will need to be trimmed as well. Autumn olive and other non-native plants also need to be removed, so bring loppers, pruners, and gloves if you want to work on these projects.

We will also be updating the kiosk display, picking up trash, etc. There is plenty to do and all are welcome. See you there!